

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	)	
	)	<b>No. 4:19-CR-00804-SNLJ</b>
<b>v.</b>	)	
	)	
<b>CHRISTOPHER R. WARD,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Defendant.</b>	)	

**GUILTY-PLEA AGREEMENT**

Come now the parties and hereby agree, as follows:

**1. PARTIES:**

The parties are the defendant Christopher R. Ward, represented by defense counsel Kevin B. Gau, and the United States of America (hereinafter "United States" or "Government"), represented by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. This agreement does not, and is not intended to, bind any governmental office or agency other than the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. The Court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement.

**2. GUILTY PLEA:**

**A. The Plea:**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A), of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in exchange for the Defendant's voluntary plea of guilty to the amended charge of violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1952(a)(3), the United States agrees that no further federal prosecution will be

brought in this District relative to Defendant's violations of federal law, known to the United States at this time, arising out of the events set forth in the indictment.

**B. The Sentence:**

The parties agree that the recommendations contained herein fairly and accurately set forth some guidelines that may be applicable to this case. The parties agree that either party may request a sentence within, above or below the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines range (combination of Total Offense Level and Criminal History Category) ultimately determined by the Court pursuant to any chapter of the Guidelines and Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a). The parties further agree that notice of any such request by either party to request a sentence above or below the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines will be given no later than ten days prior to sentencing and that said notice shall specify the legal and factual bases for the request. The parties understand that the Court is neither a party to nor bound by the Guidelines recommendations agreed to in this document or the recommendation of the parties.

**3. ELEMENTS:**

The Defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1952(a)(3), and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are as follows:

(1) Defendant traveled in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, or carrying on of promoting prostitution in violation of the laws of the State of Missouri,

(2) after doing so the defendant performed or attempted to perform such promoting prostitution, and

(3) the defendant did something that was a substantial step toward committing the crime of promoting prostitution and that strongly corroborated the defendant's intent to commit the crime of promoting prostitution.

**4. FACTS:**

The parties agree that the facts in this case are as follows and that the United States would prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt if the case were to go to trial. These facts may be considered as relevant conduct pursuant to Section 1B1.3:

On September 10, 2018, officers with the St. Louis County Police Department Special Investigation's Unit were conducting an investigation into suspected human trafficking and prostitution offenses in the area of the Holiday Inn on Woodson Road in St. Louis County. Via the internet and a website called SkiptheGames.com, St. Louis County Officers, working under cover, arranged for prostitution services to occur at a hotel in St. Louis County at about 9:55 p.m. that day with a woman whose initials are B.T. The investigation revealed that the defendant drove B.T. to the St. Louis area from the State of Kansas for the purpose of facilitating prostitution activity by B.T. Further, the defendant drove B.T. to the hotel the night of September 10, 2018 for the purpose of B.T. engaging in an act of prostitution and that B.T. was going to pay the defendant for the transportation from the proceeds of the prostitution activity. Specifically, B.T. agreed to the commission of a sexual act with the undercover officer in exchange for \$250.00. An officer observed a black 9mm Taurus pistol under the driver's seat where the defendant was seated while waiting got B.T. to conclude her prostitution activity. Officers also found \$1,893 in the defendant's front pocket.

**5. STATUTORY PENALTIES:**

The Defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for the crime to which the Defendant is pleading guilty is imprisonment of not more than five years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court also may impose a period of supervised release of not more than three years.

**6. U.S. SENTENCING GUIDELINES: 2018 MANUAL**

The Defendant understands that this offense is affected by the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the actual sentencing range is determined by both the Total Offense Level and the Criminal History Category. The parties agree that the following are the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level provisions that apply.

**A. Chapter 2 Offense Conduct:**

i. **Base Offense Level:** The parties agree that the Base Offense Level is fourteen (14) as found in Sections 2E1.2(a) and 2G1.1.

ii. **Specific Offense Characteristics:** None.

**B. Chapter 3 Adjustments:**

i. **Acceptance of Responsibility:** The parties recommend that two levels should be deducted pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(a) because Defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility.

The parties agree that if Defendant does not abide by all of the agreements made within this document, Defendant's failure to comply is grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1. The parties further agree that Defendant's eligibility for a reduction pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1 is based upon the information known at the present time and that any actions of Defendant which occur or which become known to the United States subsequent to this agreement and are inconsistent with

Defendant's acceptance of responsibility including, but not limited to criminal conduct, are grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1. In any event, the parties agree that all of the remaining provisions of this agreement remain valid and in full force and effect.

C. **Estimated Total Offense Level:** The parties agree that the Total Offense Level is twelve (12).

D. **Criminal History:** The determination of the Defendant's Criminal History Category shall be left to the Court. Either party may challenge, before and at sentencing, the finding of the Presentence Report as to the Defendant's criminal history and the applicable category. The Defendant's criminal history is known to the Defendant and is substantially available in the Pretrial Services Report.

E. **Effect of Parties' U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Analysis:** The parties agree that the Court is not bound by the Guidelines analysis agreed to herein. The parties may not have foreseen all applicable Guidelines. The Court may, in its discretion, apply or not apply any Guideline despite the agreement herein and the parties shall not be permitted to withdraw from the plea agreement.

7. **WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS:**

A. **Appeal:** The Defendant has been fully apprised by defense counsel of the Defendant's rights concerning appeal and fully understands the right to appeal the sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742.

i. **Non-Sentencing Issues:** The parties waive all rights to appeal all non jurisdictional, non-sentencing issues, including, but not limited to, any issues relating to pretrial

motions, discovery and the guilty plea, the constitutionality of the statute(s) to which defendant is pleading guilty and whether defendant's conduct falls within the scope of the statute(s).

**ii. Sentencing Issues:** In the event the Court accepts the plea and, after determining a Sentencing Guidelines range, sentences the Defendant within or below that range, then, as part of this agreement, the Defendant hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, as it relates to both Base Offense Level and Criminal History Category. Similarly, the United States hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, provided the Court accepts the plea and sentences the Defendant to a sentence within or above the Sentencing Guidelines range.

**B. Habeas Corpus:** The Defendant agrees to waive all rights to contest the conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including one pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, except for claims of prosecutorial misconduct or ineffective assistance of counsel.

**C. Right to Records:** The Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 522, or the Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(a).

**8. OTHER:**

**A. Disclosures Required by the United States Probation Office:** The Defendant agrees to truthfully complete and sign forms as required by the United States Probation Office prior to sentencing and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the United States.

**B. Civil or Administrative Actions not Barred; Effect on Other Governmental Agencies:** Nothing contained herein limits the rights and authority of the United States to take any civil, tax, immigration/deportation or administrative action against the Defendant.

**C. Supervised Release:** Pursuant to any supervised release term, the Court will impose standard conditions upon the Defendant and may impose special conditions related to the crime Defendant committed. These conditions will be restrictions on the Defendant to which the Defendant will be required to adhere. Violation of the conditions of supervised release resulting in revocation may require the Defendant to serve a term of imprisonment equal to the length of the term of supervised release, but not greater than the term set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(e)(3), without credit for the time served after release. The Defendant understands that parole has been abolished.

**D. Mandatory Special Assessment:** This offense is subject to the provisions of the Criminal Fines Improvement Act of 1987 and the Court is required to impose a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count for a total of \$100, which the Defendant agrees to pay at the time of sentencing. Money paid by the Defendant toward any restitution or fine imposed by the Court shall be first used to pay any unpaid mandatory special assessment.

**E. Possibility of Detention:** The Defendant may be subject to immediate detention pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3143.

**F. Fines and Costs of Incarceration and Supervision:** The Court may impose a fine, costs of incarceration, and costs of supervision. The Defendant agrees that any fine imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately.

**G. Forfeiture:** The defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives any right, title, and interest in all items seized by law enforcement officials during the course of their

investigation, whether or not they are subject to forfeiture, and agrees not to contest the vesting of title of such items in the United States. This includes but is not limited to the 9mm semi-automatic Taurus firearm and ammunition that were seized by law enforcement on or about September 10, 2018. The defendant agrees that said items may be disposed of by law enforcement officials in any manner.

**9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS:**

In pleading guilty, the Defendant acknowledges, fully understands and hereby waives his rights, including but not limited to: the right to plead not guilty to the charges; the right to be tried by a jury in a public and speedy trial; the right to file pretrial motions, including motions to suppress or exclude evidence; the right at such trial to a presumption of innocence; the right to require the United States to prove the elements of the offenses charged against the Defendant beyond a reasonable doubt; the right not to testify; the right not to present any evidence; the right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; the right to testify and present evidence and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses. The Defendant further understands that by this guilty plea, the Defendant expressly waives all the rights set forth in this paragraph.

The Defendant fully understands that the Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, to have the Court appoint counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. The Defendant's counsel has explained these rights and the consequences of the waiver of these rights. The Defendant fully understands that, as a result of the guilty plea, no trial will, in fact, occur and that the only action remaining to be taken in this case is the imposition of the sentence.



The Defendant is fully satisfied with the representation received from defense counsel. The Defendant has reviewed the United States' evidence and discussed the United States' case and all possible defenses and defense witnesses with defense counsel. Defense counsel has completely and satisfactorily explored all areas which the Defendant has requested relative to the United States' case and any defenses.

**10. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GUILTY PLEA AND PLEA AGREEMENT:**

This document constitutes the entire agreement between the Defendant and the United States, and no other promises or inducements have been made, directly or indirectly, by any agent of the United States, including any Department of Justice attorney, concerning any plea to be entered in this case. In addition, the Defendant states that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced the Defendant to do or refrain from doing anything in connection with any aspect of this case, including entering a plea of guilty.

The Defendant acknowledges having voluntarily entered into both the plea agreement and the guilty plea. The Defendant further acknowledges that this guilty plea is made of the Defendant's own free will and that the Defendant is, in fact, guilty.

**11. CONSEQUENCES OF POST-PLEA MISCONDUCT:**

After pleading guilty and before sentencing, if Defendant commits any crime, other than minor traffic offenses, violates any conditions of release that results in revocation, violates any term of this guilty-plea agreement, intentionally provides misleading, incomplete or untruthful information to the U.S. Probation Office or fails to appear for sentencing, the United States, at its option, may be released from its obligations under this agreement. The United States may also, in its discretion, proceed with this agreement and may advocate for any sentencing position supported

by the facts, including but not limited to obstruction of justice and denial of acceptance of responsibility.

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12. **NO RIGHT TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA:**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c) and (d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Defendant understands that there will be no right to withdraw the plea entered under this agreement, except where the Court rejects those portions of the plea agreement which deal with charges the United States agrees to dismiss or not to bring.

1/19/22

Date

1/18/22

Date

1/18/22

Date

Jillian S. Anderson

JILLIAN S. ANDERSON, #53918MO  
Assistant United States Attorney

[Signature]

CHRISTOPHER R. WARD  
Defendant

[Signature]

KEVIN B. GAU  
Attorney for Defendant